

20TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2012

20  
1992-2012  
image  
216  
DIGITAL  
EDITION

# SPAWN







Todd McFarlane and Image Comics Present



#### PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Jim continues to expand his public presence with a morning show interview, discussing his powers, his past and the creation of his new foundation. At the same time, various parties – the Vatican, the CIA, Clown, Bludd, an unknown stranger and others – all with differing interests in controlling or manipulating the new Hellspawn, take steps to further their agendas.

With Jim's focus squarely on his own goals, and his confidence at an all-time high, the perfect storm continues to gather around him. The lives of those closest to him are threatened, carrying a promise that violent confrontation is inevitable. This is fulfilled by a lone gunman and a sudden rampage that leaves Jim bullet-riddled and bleeding on the floor of the morning show studio – the whole world witness to the murder of their NEW MESSIAH.

**JON GOFF**  
Plot

**TODD McFARLANE**  
WRITER/PLOT

**SZYMON KUDRANSKI**  
ART

**FCO PLASCENCIA**  
COLOR

**TOM ORZECOWSKI**  
LETTERING

**JON GOFF**  
Additional Scripting

**TODD McFARLANE**  
Cover Artist

**Todd McFarlane**  
Editor

Managing Editor  
**Jen Cassidy**

Art Director  
**Ben Timmreck**

Production Artist  
**Joe Ferstl**

Publisher for Image Comics  
**Eric Stephenson**


SPAWN CREATED BY  
**TODD McFARLANE**

**image**  
**TODD McFARLANE**  
PRODUCTIONS  
**SPAWN.COM**


Spawn #216, Digital Edition. Published by IMAGE COMICS, 2134 Allston Way, Second Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704, \$2.99 USA. Spawn, its logo and its symbol are registered trademarks © 2012 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All other related characters are TM and © 2012 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. The characters, events and stories in this publication are entirely fictional. With exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc.

WHAT'S  
HIS CURRENT  
CONDITION?

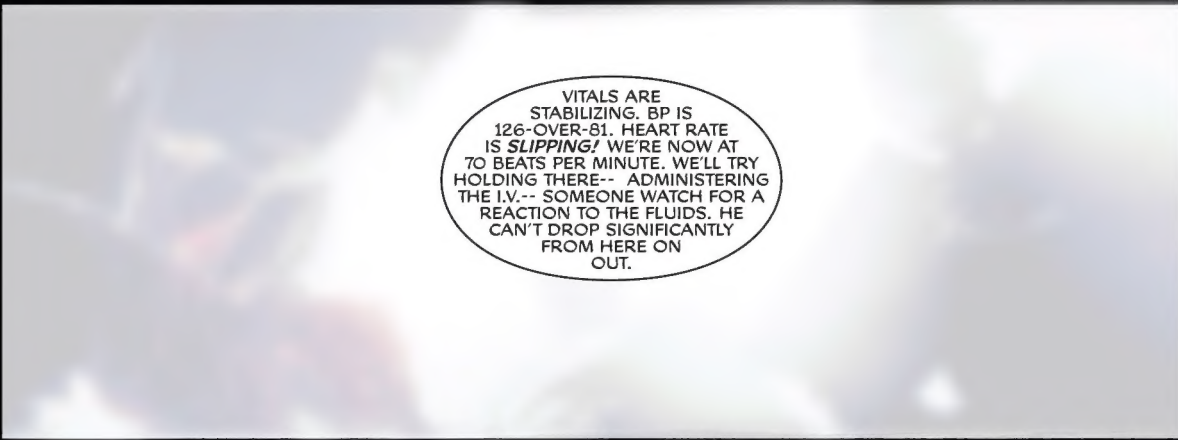
ALL HIS  
MAJOR ORGANS  
STILL SEEM TO  
BE FUNCTIONING, BUT  
THE PATIENT'S VITALS  
ARE SHOWING SIGNS  
OF EXTREME  
DISTRESS!



STRAP HIM  
DOWN! IF WE HOPE  
FOR ANY SUCCESS, WE'LL  
NEED HIM STABILIZED FOR  
THE PROCEDURE. HE CAN'T  
AFFORD TO LOSE ANY  
MORE BLOOD.



UP THE DOSAGE  
ON THE ANESTHETIC!  
WE NEED HIS READINGS  
AT MANAGEABLE LEVELS.  
FINISH THE PREP NOW--  
WE DON'T HAVE  
MUCH TIME!

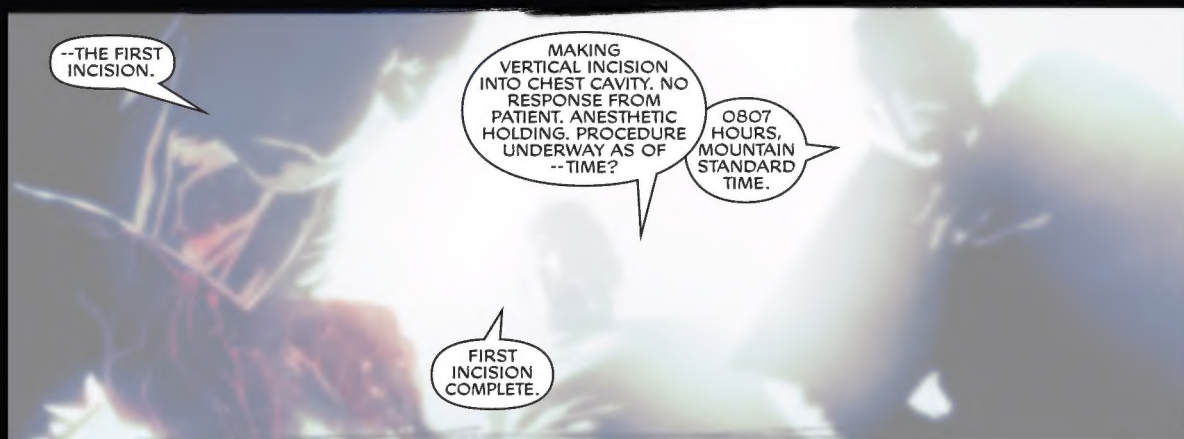


VITALS ARE  
STABILIZING. BP IS  
126-OVER-81. HEART RATE  
IS *SLIPPING!* WE'RE NOW AT  
70 BEATS PER MINUTE. WE'LL TRY  
HOLDING THERE-- ADMINISTERING  
THE I.V.-- SOMEONE WATCH FOR A  
REACTION TO THE FLUIDS. HE  
CAN'T DROP SIGNIFICANTLY  
FROM HERE ON  
OUT.



WE'RE CLEAR  
TO PROCEED. TURN  
ON THE RECORDER.  
DOCTOR DeLOREAN  
IS SET TO MAKE--



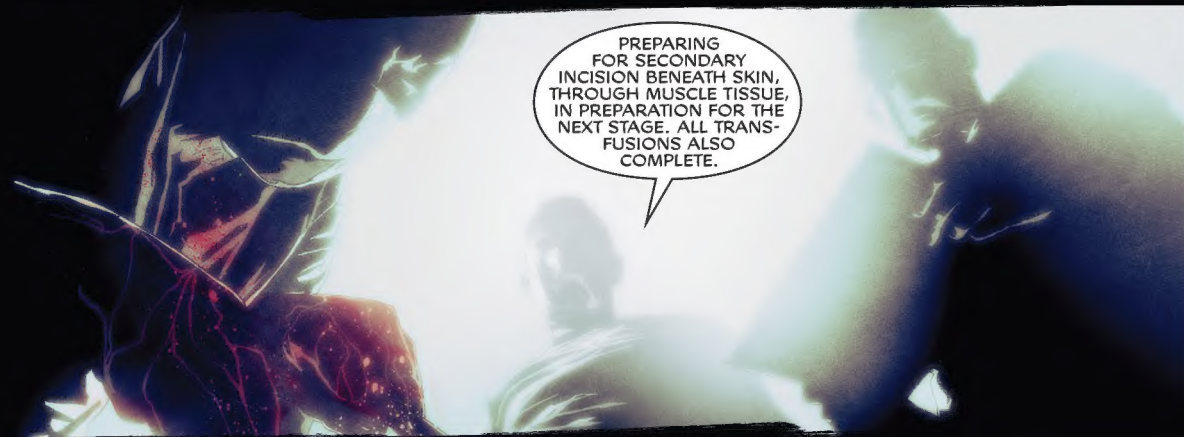


--THE FIRST  
INCISION.

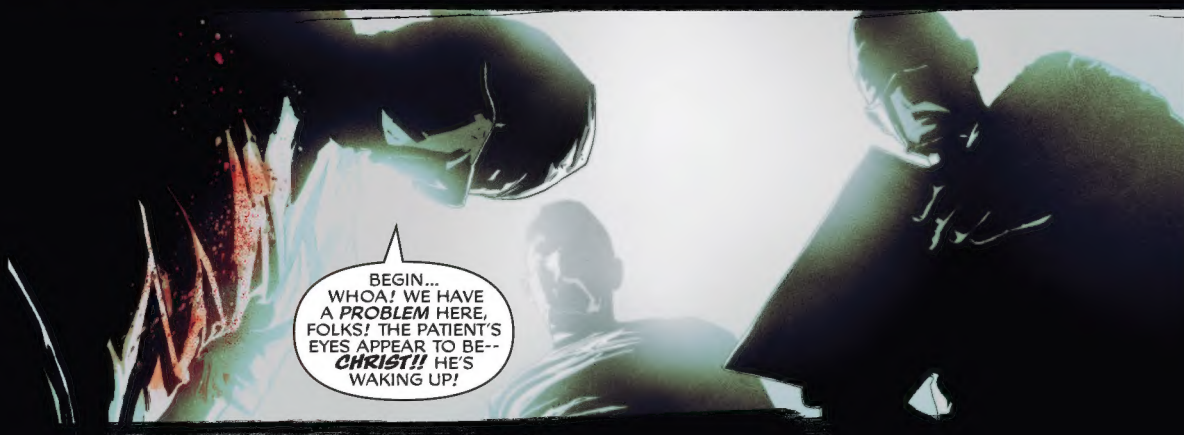
MAKING  
VERTICAL INCISION  
INTO CHEST CAVITY. NO  
RESPONSE FROM  
PATIENT. ANESTHETIC  
HOLDING. PROCEDURE  
UNDERWAY AS OF  
--TIME?

0807  
HOURS,  
MOUNTAIN  
STANDARD  
TIME.

FIRST  
INCISION  
COMPLETE.



PREPARING  
FOR SECONDARY  
INCISION BENEATH SKIN,  
THROUGH MUSCLE TISSUE,  
IN PREPARATION FOR THE  
NEXT STAGE. ALL TRANS-  
FUSIONS ALSO  
COMPLETE.



BEGIN...  
WHOA! WE HAVE  
A **PROBLEM** HERE,  
FOLKS! THE PATIENT'S  
EYES APPEAR TO BE--  
**CHRIST!!** HE'S  
WAKING UP!



A CLASSIFIED GOVERNMENT  
FACILITY. MANY YEARS AGO.

SOMEONE--  
RESTRAIN  
HIM!!

GET  
SECURITY  
UP HERE...  
**NOW!**





HE CONTINUES TO REJECT ALL ANESTHETIC. THIS IS THE THIRD SURGERY WE'VE ATTEMPTED THIS MONTH.

HIS PREVIOUS OPERATIONS WERE SUCCESSFUL AND WITHOUT INCIDENT, BUT WE CAN'T MOVE FORWARD UNTIL WE SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENT THE COMPLETE SPECTRUM OF OUR NEW PROCESS.

OUR PROBLEM IS THAT THIS PATIENT HAS BEGUN EXHIBITING SIGNS OF LOST COGNIZANCE, AND AS HE LOSES HIS EMOTIONAL GRIP ON REALITY...



...WE BELIEVE IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF WEEKS-- MAYBE DAYS-- BEFORE HE'S COMPLETELY INSANE.

WHICH WILL RENDER ANY OF HIS **POSITIVE** PHYSICAL RESULTS USELESS.



STILL, IF THEY CAN RESTORE HIS MENTAL CAPACITY TO ITS NORMAL STATE, WE'LL HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN BOTH MOLECULAR AND TEMPORAL RESTORATION.

YOUR GOAL OF DESIGNING AND REPLICATING THE 'PERFECT HUMAN' WILL FINALLY BE WITHIN YOUR GRASP.

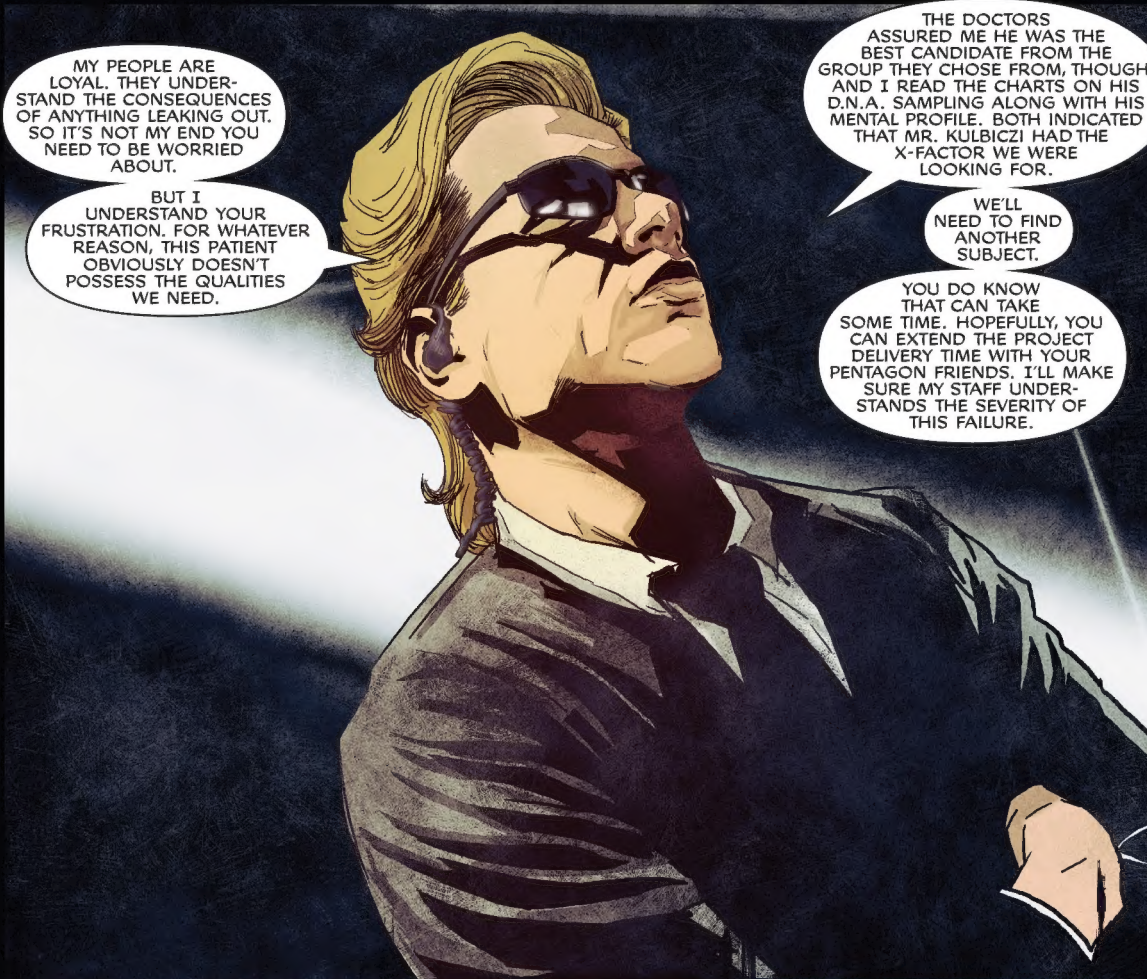
THEN YOU CAN BEGIN BUILDING US AN ARMY OF THEM!...



...SO LONG AS WE MAINTAIN "THE PROJECT'S" COMPLETE SECRECY. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, DIRECTOR?







MY PEOPLE ARE LOYAL. THEY UNDERSTAND THE CONSEQUENCES OF ANYTHING LEAKING OUT. SO IT'S NOT MY END YOU NEED TO BE WORRIED ABOUT.

BUT I UNDERSTAND YOUR FRUSTRATION. FOR WHATEVER REASON, THIS PATIENT OBVIOUSLY DOESN'T POSSESS THE QUALITIES WE NEED.

THE DOCTORS ASSURED ME HE WAS THE BEST CANDIDATE FROM THE GROUP THEY CHOSE FROM, THOUGH. AND I READ THE CHARTS ON HIS D.N.A. SAMPLING ALONG WITH HIS MENTAL PROFILE. BOTH INDICATED THAT MR. KULBICZI HAD THE X-FACTOR WE WERE LOOKING FOR.

WE'LL NEED TO FIND ANOTHER SUBJECT.

YOU DO KNOW THAT CAN TAKE SOME TIME. HOPEFULLY, YOU CAN EXTEND THE PROJECT DELIVERY TIME WITH YOUR PENTAGON FRIENDS. I'LL MAKE SURE MY STAFF UNDERSTANDS THE SEVERITY OF THIS FAILURE.



I'LL GET YOU YOUR TIME.



BUT YOU GET ME A PATIENT I CAN COUNT ON.





SO... YOU  
WANT TO MAKE  
HIM MY PROBLEM  
NOW?

WHAT'S  
THE  
MATTER?  
CAN'T  
CONTROL  
THE HIRED  
HELP?

I'VE BEEN  
HEARING  
RUMORS  
YOUR OPERATION  
ISN'T... UM,  
'ACCELERATING'...  
AT THE RATE YOU'D  
EXPECTED. THAT'S  
SURPRISING, GIVEN  
THE SUPPORT AND  
ASSISTANCE WE'VE  
DEVOTED TO YOUR  
LABS THESE  
PAST FEW  
YEARS.

MOST OF  
WHAT YOU'VE  
DONE IS GREATLY  
APPRECIATED--  
BUT NONE OF THE  
PAPERS, PATENTS  
OR SCIENTISTS  
YOU'VE PROVIDED  
HAVE DONE ANY  
BETTER JOB AT  
SOLVING OUR  
PROBLEM THAN  
WHAT WAS  
ALREADY IN  
PROCESS.

THAT'S  
NOT  
TRUE. YOU  
MADE GREAT  
STRIDES WITH  
PATIENT  
22.

UNTIL  
HE  
DIED.

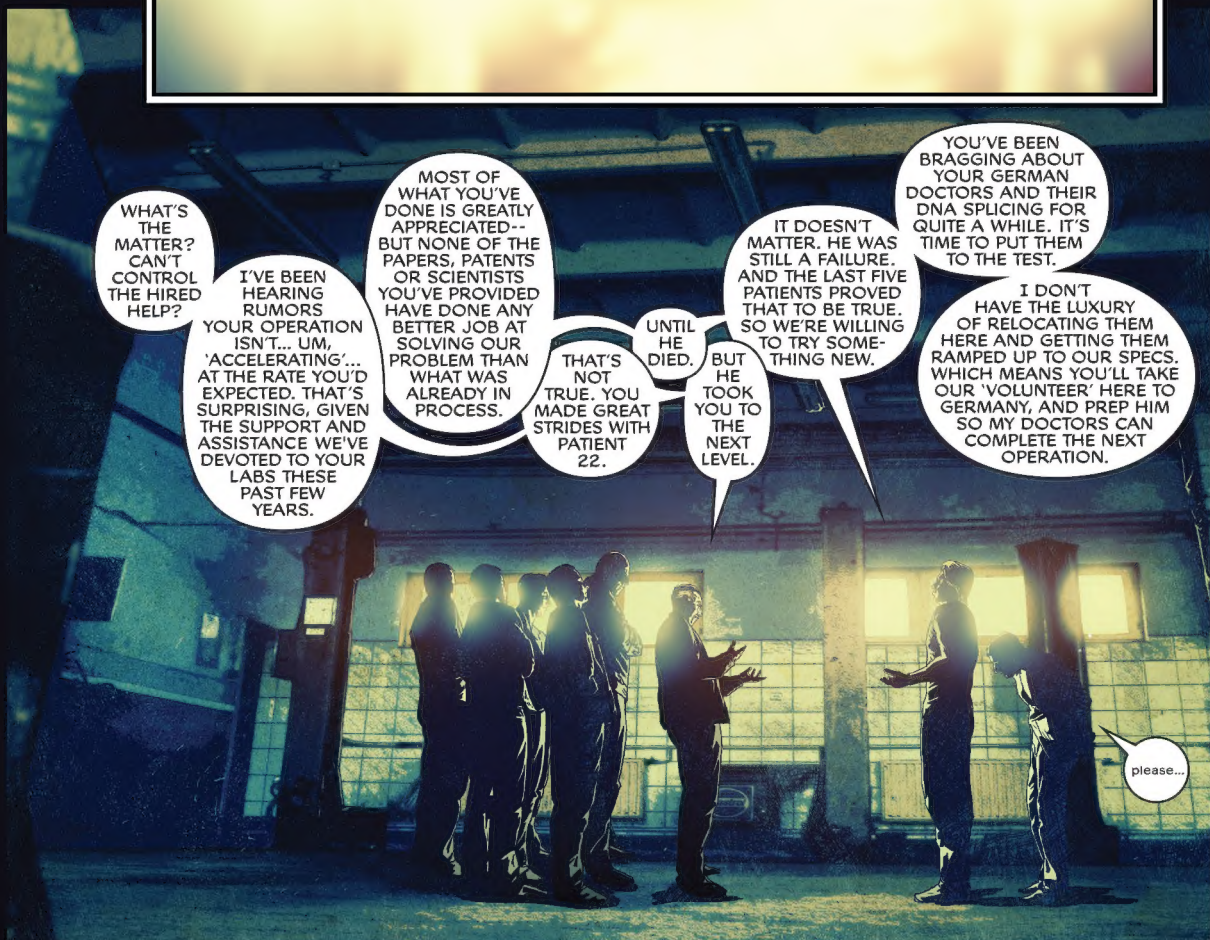
BUT  
HE  
TOOK  
YOU TO  
THE  
NEXT  
LEVEL.

IT DOESN'T  
MATTER. HE WAS  
STILL A FAILURE.  
AND THE LAST FIVE  
PATIENTS PROVED  
THAT TO BE TRUE.  
SO WE'RE WILLING  
TO TRY SOME-  
THING NEW.

YOU'VE BEEN  
BRAGGING ABOUT  
YOUR GERMAN  
DOCTORS AND THEIR  
DNA SPLICING FOR  
QUITE A WHILE. IT'S  
TIME TO PUT THEM  
TO THE TEST.

I DON'T  
HAVE THE LUXURY  
OF RELOCATING THEM  
HERE AND GETTING THEM  
RAMPED UP TO OUR SPECS.  
WHICH MEANS YOU'LL TAKE  
OUR 'VOLUNTEER' HERE TO  
GERMANY, AND PREP HIM  
SO MY DOCTORS CAN  
COMPLETE THE NEXT  
OPERATION.

please...



DON'T  
DO  
THIS.

SHUT UP,  
RICHARD!

YOU DON'T  
HAVE A SAY IN  
ANY OF THIS. YOU  
SEALED YOUR FATE  
WITH YOUR  
BETRAYAL.

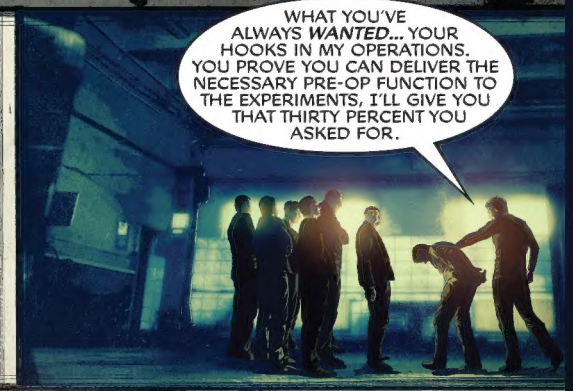






AND WHAT DO I GET OUT OF THIS?

SO WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE, NORTEGO? YOU WANT IN OR NOT?



WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED... YOUR HOOKS IN MY OPERATIONS. YOU PROVE YOU CAN DELIVER THE NECESSARY PRE-OP FUNCTION TO THE EXPERIMENTS, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT THIRTY PERCENT YOU ASKED FOR.



THIS IS IMPORTANT TO US.

JUST LIKE THAT?



SO IT SEEMS.

FINE. I'LL TAKE HIM. SEND HIS DOSSIER TO MY PRIVATE SERVER. WE'LL TAKE IT FROM THERE.


YOU'VE MADE THE RIGHT DECISION. THIS PARTNERSHIP IS EXACTLY WHAT WE BOTH NEED TO FLOURISH.






WE  
RECEIVED  
THE REPORT  
LATE LAST  
NIGHT...

I THOUGHT  
YOU SHOULD  
SEE THIS  
FIRST.



AS YOU KNOW,  
WE'VE BEEN MONITORING  
NORTEGO'S GERMAN LABS  
FROM A DISTANCE, SINCE WE  
ALSO HAVE A VESTED INTEREST  
IN THEIR RESEARCH. OUR  
'PLANT' TRANSMITTED THE  
LATEST RESULTS FROM THEIR  
EXPERIMENTS ON PATIENT 29...  
THE CIVILIAN YOU KNEW AS  
RICHARD MASULLO.



WERE  
NORTEGO'S  
PEOPLE TRYING TO  
SUPPRESS THE  
NEWS OF THIS  
OUTCOME?

WE DON'T  
KNOW. WE'RE  
STILL TRYING TO  
DETERMINE  
THAT.

BUT THE  
BIGGER ISSUE  
IS THE POTENTIAL  
IMPACT THIS  
HAS FOR BOTH  
OF US.





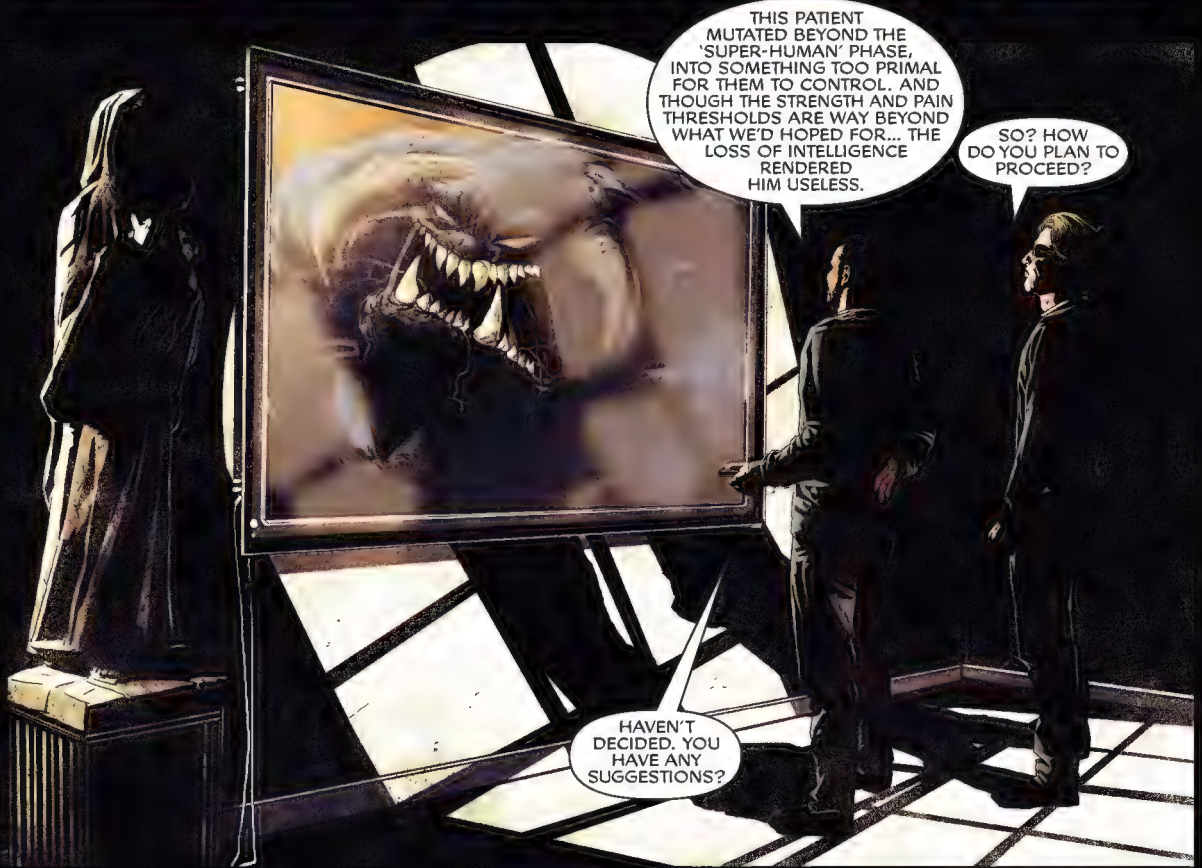
WE BOTH  
NEEDED THIS  
NEW D.N.A.  
SEQUENCE TO  
BE STABLE...



...AT  
LEAST LONG  
ENOUGH FOR  
US TO INFUSE  
IT WITH THOSE  
WE BUILT  
HERE.



BUT NOT  
ONLY WON'T THEY  
BE COMPATIBLE--  
THERE ARE **SEVERE**  
SIDE EFFECTS  
INVOLVED.



THIS PATIENT  
MUTATED BEYOND THE  
'SUPER-HUMAN' PHASE,  
INTO SOMETHING TOO PRIMAL  
FOR THEM TO CONTROL. AND  
THOUGH THE STRENGTH AND PAIN  
THRESHOLDS ARE WAY BEYOND  
WHAT WE'D HOPED FOR... THE  
LOSS OF INTELLIGENCE  
RENDERED HIM USELESS.

SO? HOW  
DO YOU PLAN TO  
PROCEED?

HAVEN'T  
DECIDED. YOU  
HAVE ANY  
SUGGESTIONS?






WE NEED  
ANOTHER  
GENE.


EXACTLY.

AND IF  
WE DON'T  
WANT TO  
LOSE ANY  
MORE TIME...  
THERE'S  
ONLY ONE  
PLACE TO  
GET IT.

SHE WON'T  
SELL IT TO US,  
WYNN. YOU KNOW  
THAT. YOU'VE  
BEEN IN MEETINGS  
WITH HER.




YES-- AND  
HER REFUSAL  
ALWAYS  
STRUCK ME AS  
STRANGE.



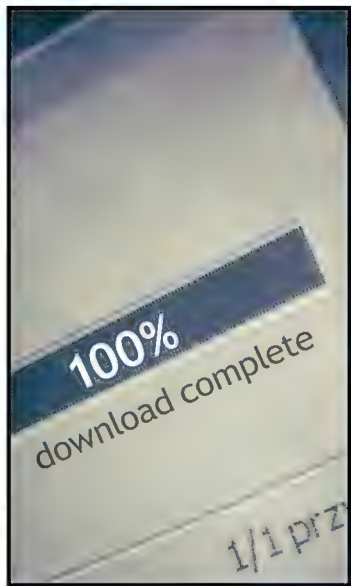
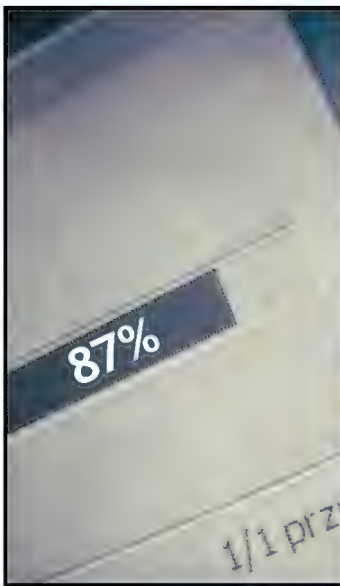
HOW LONG  
HAVE YOU BEEN  
DATING HER NOW?  
WHAT IS IT? SEVEN... EIGHT  
MONTHS? HER COMPANY  
HAS CUTTING EDGE SCIENCE  
AT THEIR FINGERTIPS-- POSSIBLY  
THE ANSWER TO MOST OF  
OUR QUESTIONS-- AND YOU  
HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO  
GET YOUR HANDS  
ON IT. WHY?

THAT'S NOT  
HOW IT WORKS.  
WE DON'T TALK  
BUSINESS WHEN  
WE'RE  
TOGETHER.

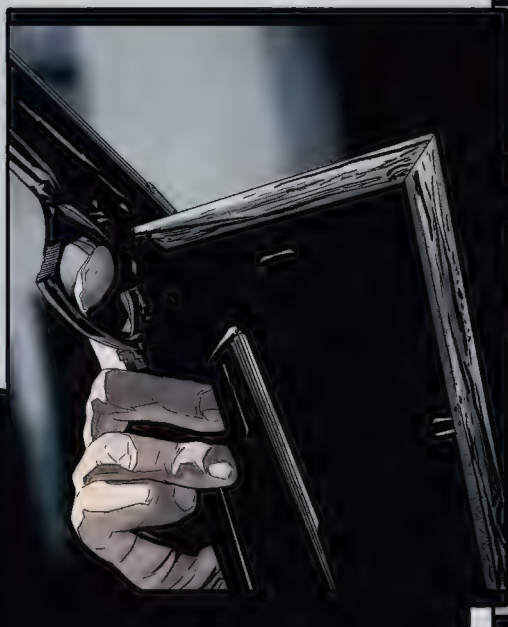


THEN YOU'RE  
GOING TO HAVE TO  
DECIDE: WHAT'S MORE  
IMPORTANT... PROFESSOR  
GEBHARD... OR YOUR  
BUSINESS INTERESTS?

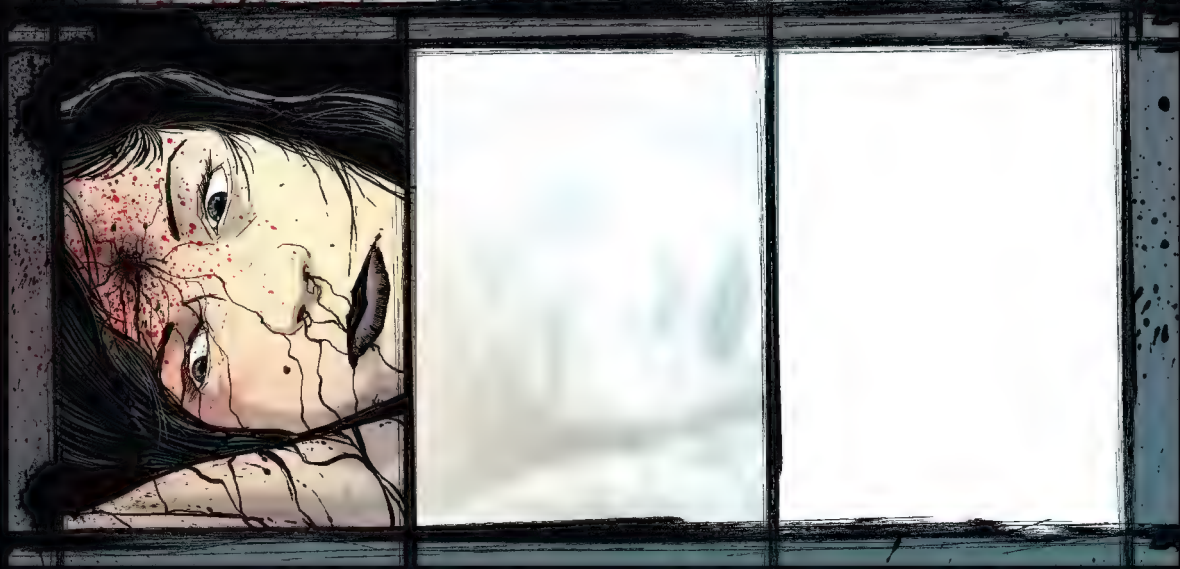














CRASHH

SHUNK

KRAKOW

THE  
PENTAGON  
IS GOING  
TO BLOW A  
GASKET.

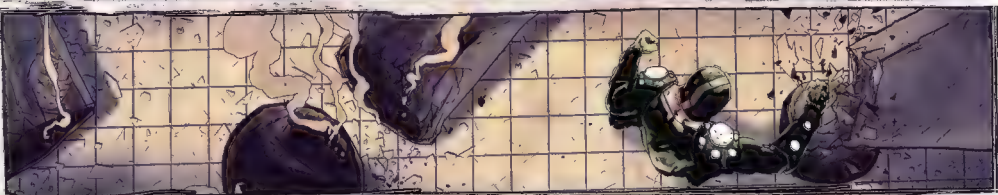
I'M SUPPOSED  
TO SHOWCASE  
THIS NEW WEAPON TO  
THEM-- IN THREE WEEKS!  
HOW'S THAT GOING TO  
HAPPEN NOW? YOU  
BLEW THIS ONE,  
KRAMER!

THEY'RE NEVER  
GOING TO GIVE US  
ANOTHER EXTENSION. NOT  
AFTER WE'VE SCREWED  
THEM EIGHT TIMES! I TOLD  
YOU... THEY'LL SHUT YOUR  
ASS DOWN IF YOU  
DON'T DELIVER.

I STUCK MY NECK  
OUT FOR YOU! AND FOR  
WHAT?! FIVE YEARS AND  
BILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND  
YOU CAN'T DEVELOP ANYTHING  
USEFUL FOR US?! HOW  
MANY GODDAMN FAILURES  
IS THIS NOW?

FORTY-  
SIX.

FORTY-  
SIX?!!  
CHRIST!




THAT'S IT--  
YOU'RE DONE!  
AS SOON AS THEY  
FIND OUT YOU F\*\*KED  
THEM AGAIN YOU'RE  
THROUGH! THERE  
WON'T EVER BE A  
PATIENT FORTY-  
SEVEN!

wrong







"THEY WERE  
WRONG.



"NO WAY WAS I  
GOING TO STOP--  
NOT WHEN I WAS  
SO CLOSE.



"NOT WHEN I  
COULD ALMOST  
TASTE IT!



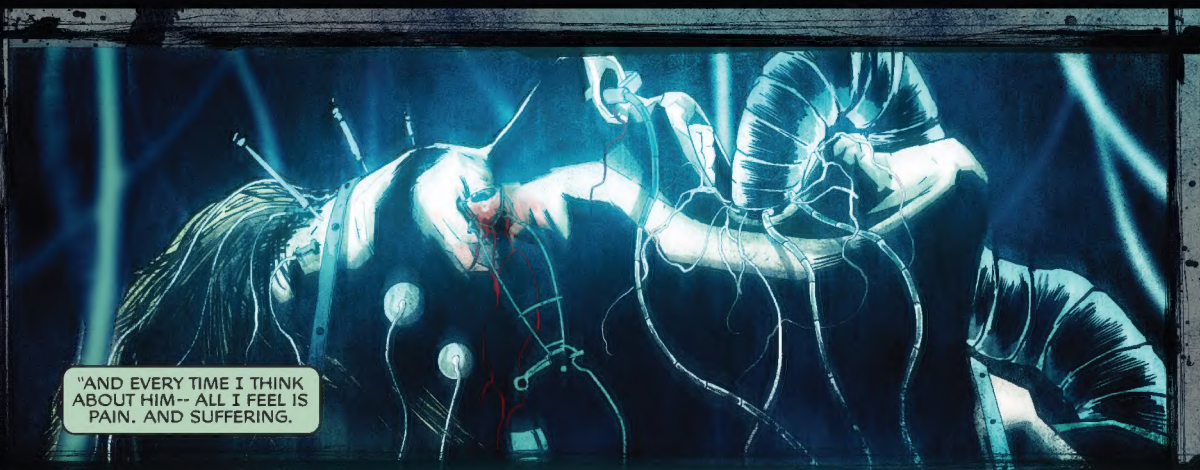
"AND THOUGH THEY TOOK THE  
FACILITY-- AND MY RESEARCHERS--  
AND MY CASH-- I MADE IT MY  
MISSION TO PERSONALLY MAKE  
SURE THERE WOULD BE..."





"...A PATIENT  
47!"

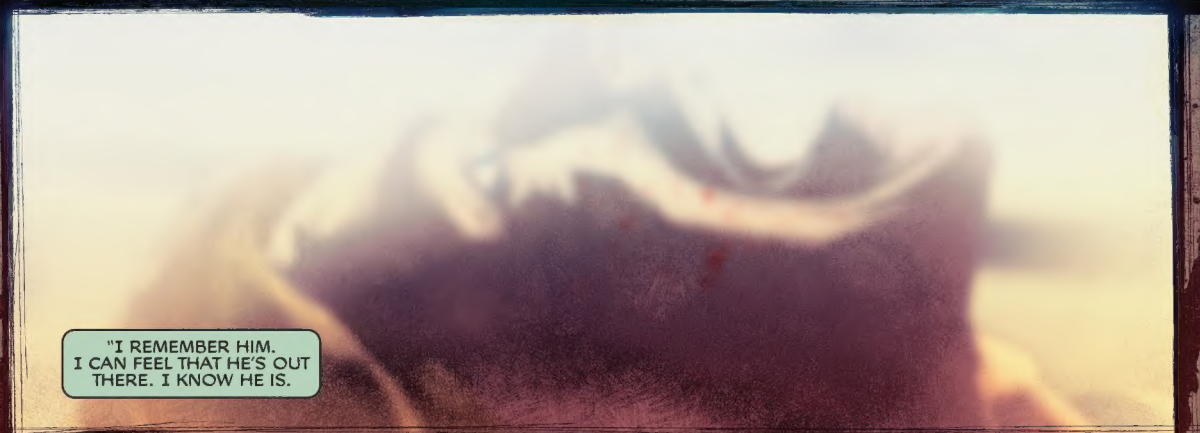




"AND EVERY TIME I THINK  
ABOUT HIM-- ALL I FEEL IS  
PAIN. AND SUFFERING.



"BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER.



"I REMEMBER HIM.  
I CAN FEEL THAT HE'S OUT  
THERE. I KNOW HE IS.



"SOMEWHERE...  
PATIENT 47 IS  
STILL ALIVE!"









Next: **THE RESURRECTION**







Tyrant  
Lizard  
King

EMPIRE